Newton Centre, Jan. 29th 1847.

To the "Soc. of Missy. Inquiry"
in Princeton Theol. Sem'y.

Dear Brethren — In behalf of the "Soc. of Inquiry in Newton Theo. Inst. allow me to present an apology for the long silence wh. has been preserved, on our part, in reference to your last epistle.

It was supposed by our Soc. that it's former Sec'y, had furnished a reply, last year, (though no copy of it was preserved in our book of correspondence.) But we have recently ascertained that no such reply has been received. Whatever may have, unfortunately, occasioned this seeming neglect, be assured, it has not resulted from any desire on the part of the Society to have the correspondence discontinued.

Even, though we may not often have interesting facts to communicate, doubtless, the mutual interchange of Christian Sentiment, and of fraternal affection, (wh. ought to bind together the brotherhood of Christ,) has a tendency to encourage and stimulate us in our Master's service. We believe that a friendly correspondence between kindred societies may be rendered mutually beneficial; and would, heartily, reciprocate the kind feeling & good wishes expressed in your epistle, while we cherish the hope that we may, indeed, be "one with each other and one with Christ." We have before us one common object. We

worship one common Lord. We acknowledge one common Savior and Master; and we ought to be as, I trust, we are brethren. Though we may be called by different names; though we may occupy different portions of the vineyard of the Lord, it is to be hoped, that our Christian sympathies are enlisted in each others behalf, & that our prayers often blend together in unison, before the Mercy Seat, for ourselves & for a fallen world. What is there more delightful in the intercourse of human life, than a cordial sympathy & Christian charity among different branches of the family of Christ? — a love for the moral image of the Savior, wherever that image is exhibited? We do not believe, however, in that misnamed Charity, wh. makes no discrimination between the friends & the foes of christ. But, we do believe, that among those who love the great fundamental doctrines of the gospel, who hang their hopes of heaven upon the cross of Christ alone, there may be & should be a sincere feeling of interest in each others welfare, though there may exist some differences of opinion in regard to church polity.

Such is the diversity of influences operating upon the minds of men, perhaps, it is not to be expected, in this life, that all true christians will think alike on every point; but all may love; all may sympathize with, & pray for, each other; and, not only exchange the courtesies of life, but give each other a hearty "God Speed" in the holy work of winning souls to Christ. Thus, doubtless, the excellence of the christian character may be seen to appear more beautiful

even, than if those who cherish this sympathy, were in all respects, of one faith. ——— Dear brethren, we are permitted to be co-workers with each other, & with God, in advancing the highest welfare of our race. Be it ours, to enter His moral vineyard, with prepared hearts & strong hands; and, for the honor of His name, to live & labor, until the work of life is ended, & we are transfered to a higher state of being— We have before us an open field— A world lies in ruins— It is enveloped in the shades of moral death. If we are called of God to be His ambassadors— to point the perishing to the Lamb of God. let us be willing to go, (if His providence & Spirit shall, thus, indicate our duty,) even where the darkness is most dense, & there hold up the torch of truth, to guide the wretched & the ruined to Heaven. In such labor, doubtless, angelic Spirits would delight to be employed,— And, why should we shrink from it, if God calls us to such honor? ——

I do not know that anything worthy of special notice has occurred in reference to our Soc. since our last communication. Our meetings are continued, as usual, & not without profit, we think. Though unquestionably there is not that depth of interest in the Miss'y. work wh. is so highly desirable. On the 1st inst. two of our former graduates sailed from Boston, for fields of miss'y labor. One (with his wife & another lady) is to be located in Greece. The other returns to a field in Africa, wh. (in consequence of ill health) he was obliged, some time ago, to abandon.

You inquire if we have any Soc. connected with our Inst.

wh. has for its object the benefit of those in our immediate vicinity? We have no Soc. formed for this object, though, there is a weekly prayer-meeting ~~for this neighborhood~~, conducted by Students. Also, several, of our number are engaged in Sabbath School instruction, & attend (more or less) religious meetings in the vicinity. We have a "Tract depository" connected with the Inst. from wh. students may draw to any amount they please, But the

sparseness of the population around us, greatly limits this amount. — It would afford us pleasure to hear of your progress, & to receive any intelligence or suggestions adapted to incite us to more zealous efforts in the prosecution of the noble enterprize, for the advancement of which our respective associations have been organized.

We are, dear Brethren, Yours,
in the bonds of Christian love,

B. A. Edwards
Cor. Sec'y.